

- PATENT -

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Harris et al. EXAMINER: Bhatia, N.
SERIAL NO.: 10/042,499 ART UNIT: 2661
FILED: 01/07/02 CASE NO.: CE09179R
ENTITLED: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TRANSMITTING AND RECEIVING DATA

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Va. 22313-1450

Commissioner:

In response to an Office Action dated April 28, 2006, the applicants hereby respectfully submit the following amendment and response.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method for data transmission where a predetermined number (N) of idle frames are sent when data transmission is completed, the method comprising the steps of:
 - transmitting a plurality of data frames to a remote unit;
 - determining that a final data frame has been transmitted to the remote unit;
 - transmitting a first plurality (K) of idle frames in response to the determination that the final data frame has been transmitted to the remote unit;
 - receiving a negative acknowledgment (NAK) from the remote unit indicating that a data frame was improperly received;
 - retransmitting the improperly-received data frame; and
 - transmitting N-K idle frames to the remote unit after retransmitting the data frame.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of transmitting the first plurality of idle frames comprises the step of transmitting the first plurality of idle frames, each having a sequence number incremented from the final data frame transmitted.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of receiving the negative acknowledgment comprises the step of receiving the negative acknowledgment, wherein the negative acknowledgment comprises a sequence number for a frame not received by the remote unit.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
 - determining if the NAK is requesting retransmission of the final data frame; and
 - sending no more idle frames if the NAK is requesting retransmission of the final data frame, otherwise sending N-K idle frames to the remote unit after retransmitting the data frame.
5. (Previously Presented) A method for data transmission where a predetermined number of idle frames are sent when data transmission is completed, the method comprising the steps of:

transmitting a plurality of data frames to a remote unit;
determining that a final data frame has been transmitted to the remote unit;
transmitting a first plurality of idle frames in response to the determination that the final data frame has been transmitted to the remote unit;
receiving a negative acknowledgment (NAK) from the remote unit indicating that the final data frame was improperly received;
retransmitting the final data frame; and
sending no more idle frames after the retransmission of the final data frame in response to the determination that the final data frame was improperly received.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the step of transmitting the first plurality of idle frames comprises the step of transmitting the first plurality of idle frames, each having a sequence number incremented from the final data frame sent.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the step of receiving the NAK comprises the step of receiving the NAK, wherein the NAK comprises a sequence number for a frame not received by the remote unit.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) An apparatus for transmitting data within a communication system where a predetermined number (N) of idle frames are sent when data transmission is completed, the apparatus comprising:

transmitting circuitry for outputting a plurality of data frames and idle frames to a remote unit;

receiving circuitry having a NAK'd data frame as an input; and

logic circuitry, determining that a final data frame has been transmitted to the remote unit and instructing the transmitting circuitry to transmit a first plurality (K) of idle frames in response to the determination that the final data frame has been transmitted to the remote unit and to transmit N-K idle frames to the remote unit after retransmitting the NAK'd data frame.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the idle frames have a sequence number incremented from the final data frame transmitted.
11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the NAK comprises a sequence number for a frame not received by the remote unit.
12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the logic ~~unit~~ circuitry further instructs the transmitting circuitry to send no more idle frames if the NAK's data frame is requesting retransmission of ~~a~~ the final data frame.
13. (Original) An apparatus for transmitting data within a communication system, the apparatus comprising:
 - transmitting circuitry for outputting a plurality of data frames and idle frames to a remote unit;
 - receiving circuitry having a NAK'd data frame as an input; and
 - logic circuitry, determining that a final data frame has been transmitted to the remote unit and instructing the transmitting circuitry to send no more idle frames if the NAK'd data frame is requesting retransmission of the final data frame.
14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the idle frames have a sequence number incremented from the final data frame transmitted.
15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the NAK comprises a sequence number for a frame not received by the remote unit.

16-18. (Canceled)

REMARKS

In an Office Action dated April 28, 2006, the Examiner objected to FIGs. 1 and 2 as missing the legend “PRIOR ART” and objected to claim 12 due to informalities. The Examiner rejected claims 8 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee et al. (U.S. patent no. 6,718,500) or the applicants’ admitted prior art in view of Del Prado et al. (U.S. patent no. 6,956,855). The Examiner allowed claims 1-7, 9-11, and 13-15, and further allowed claim 12 if rewritten to overcome the objected to informalities. The objections and rejections are traversed and reconsideration is hereby respectfully requested.

The applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 1-7, 9-11, and 13-15.

The applicants have amended each of FIGs. 1 and 2 to include the legend “PRIOR ART.” A replacement sheet is attached to this amendment. Also, the applicants have amended claim 12 as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objections to FIGs. 1 and 2 and claim 12.

In order to put the application in condition for allowance, the applicants have also canceled rejected claims 8 and 16-18.

As the applicants have overcome all substantive rejections and objections given by the Examiner and have complied with all requests properly presented by the Examiner, the applicants contend that this Amendment, with the above discussion, overcomes the Examiner’s objections to and rejections of the pending claims. Therefore, the applicants respectfully solicit allowance of the application. If the Examiner is of the opinion that any issues regarding the status of the claims remain after this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative to expedite resolution of the matter.

Respectfully submitted,
John Harris et al.

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